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February 6, 2009

To Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Tracy O'Brien, owner of Marvin Display, a retail establishment located in Milford. Our company is celebrating 75 years in business this year.

I fear that I will not make 76, which is why I am writing. There are several tax bills before you that I believe would seriously damage Connecticut's economy and my ability to survive here. These proposals would substantially increase my business costs and make it much harder for us to continue doing business in.

In addition, we sell American flags, which are currently not taxed. I feel that taxing Americans to buy their flag is very unpatriotic.

Specifically, I am opposing:

- HB-6348 An Act Concerning Corporation Business Tax Credits.
- HB-6349 An Act Concerning The Sales Tax On Services.
- HB-6350 An Act Eliminating Exemptions From The Sales And Use Tax And Lowering The Rate Of Such Tax
- SB-815 An Act Concerning A Moratorium On Business Tax Credits.

Given the recent economy, I have experienced a sharp decline in business. Many of my clients are themselves small business owners. Those of us that are still in business are hanging on by threads. We have cut our expenses where we could to survive, but there is now nowhere else to cut. Raising the cost of sales tax, expanding the sales tax will put yet

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another burden on small business owners. I fear soon I will have to start cutting staff. If it gets much worse I will close my doors, leaving 5 families without jobs.

I urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. O'Brien